

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 945

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Billie B. Boyd, Jr., of Rutledge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Billie B. Boyd, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Billie Boyd was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity as the current Tennessee State Commander of the Veterans of Underage Military Service, which maintains a national roster, including enlistees at ages twelve through sixteen, in the various branches of service in the World War II and Korean eras; and

WHEREAS, in May of 1942, Mr. Boyd was only sixteen years old when he enlisted in the Army Air Force from McCool, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, he bravely served his country during World War II, flying fifty combat missions as an engineer-gunner with the 386<sup>th</sup> BG (B-62 Marauders/England/July 1943 – April 1944) and participating in the Berlin Airlift/Frankfurt/C-54s; and

WHEREAS, Billie Boyd was directly commissioned from the ranks in 1950 and served as an aircraft maintenance officer at Barksdale AFB in Louisiana, Keesler AFM in Mississippi, as well as in Evereux, France and Homestead, Florida; and

WHEREAS, a pioneer in the United States Air Force Missile Program, Mr. Boyd lent his expertise from 1962 until 1965 as the missile maintenance shops officer in the 556<sup>th</sup> SMS (Atlas-F) at Plattsburg, New York; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in formulating the Sector Maintenance Concept adopted throughout the Strategic Air Command in 1964; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 1965, Billie Boyd voluntarily retired in the grade of regular major; and

WHEREAS, his many military accomplishments aside, Mr. Boyd rendered sterling service as the plant manager at Knoxville's St. Mary's Hospital from 1966 until 1974, and as the Youth Services Officer in Grainger County from 1978 until 1987; and

WHEREAS, Billie Boyd was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty years, Juanita Jean Jones Boyd, also a WWII veteran; together they served in the East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Boyd was the proud father of John Boyd and Sherry Boyd Burchfield and enjoyed the company of his grandchildren, Shannon Boyd, Holly Boyd, Stacey Horton, Jacob Horton, and Samuel Burchfield, and great-grandchild, Gabriel Boyd; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Billie and Mabel Boyd of Kosciusko, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Billie Boyd leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Billie B. Boyd, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Boyd.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.